

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SS-07 FILE-01 SSO-00 ADP-00 /014 R

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DRACTEED BY: S/ S- O: MPENDLETON

APPROVED BY: S/ S- O: RWRIGHT

DESIRED DIST: NEA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070335

TODEP 17

CINCPAC FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

REF: CAIRO 1121

FOLL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BEIRUT TEL AVIV USUN FROM CAIRO

14 APR 73 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1121

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, IS, EG

SUBJECT: UNSC MEETING ON LEBANESE COMPLAINT

REF: BEIRUT 4307, STATE 68941

1. ALTHOUGH STILL NOT ABLE GET TO ANYONE IN GOE WHO
COULD CONFIRM THEIR POSITION ON BALANCED RESOLUTION,
I FULLY ENDORSE AMB. BUFFUM' S ANALYSIS OF THE CON-
SEQUENCES OF A US VETO OF UNBALANCED RESOLUTION
(BEIRUT 4307). ONE COULD ARGUE THAT US- EGYPTIAN
RELATIONS ARE IN SUCH SORRY STATE THAT US VOTE, ES-
PECIALLY VETO, COULD NOT MAKE THEM WORSE. BUT A
VETO-- AND EVEN ABSTENTION, DEPENDING OF COURSE ON THE
RES AND ITS NEGOTIATING HISTORY, COULD BE ONE MORE
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OBSTACLE TO EVENTUAL CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE. I WOULD NOT GO SO FAR AS TO SAY GOE WOULD ALTER ITS CURRENT POLICY OF TRYING CIRCUMSCRIBE PHYSICAL DAMAGE TO US PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY IN EGYPT, BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT POLICY WOULD COME UNDER PRESSURE FROM OTHER ARABS AND GOE MIGHT FIND IT HAD LITTLE TO WORK WITH IN RESISTING IT.

2. I HAVE ASKED TO SEE ACTING FONMIN HATEM AS WELL AS UNDERSEC SHOUKRI. THEY HAVE REFERRED US TO HEAD OF NORTH AMERICAN DESK SAAD KHALIL. WITH ZAYYAT IN NEW YORK, MOST CURRENT AND AUTHORITATIVE EXPRESSIONS OF GOE POSITION AND TACTICS IN UNSC CAN PROBABLY BEST COME FROM HIM. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE PRESS REPORTS HE SAID IN TRANSIT THROUGH ROME HE DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER US WAS INVOLVED IN BEIRUT RAID, THOUGH HE WAS CERTAIN ARMS ISRAELIS USED WERE US- MADE. WE SHALL TRY TO SCOTCH THIS EVASION OF OUR DENIALS. EVEN SO, HOWEVER, US POSITION AND TACTICS SEEM FROM HERE TO HAVE THE PROBLEM (IMPLICIT IN KHALIL' S RESPONSES TO SISCO-- STATE 68941) OF ACHIEVING BEST MIX OF CONDEMNATION OF TERROR WITHOUT GETTING SIDETRACKED TO DISCUSSION OF THE " BIG LIE." A BALANCED CONDEMNATION OF ALL TERROR WOULD PRESUMABLY BE SUITABLE VEHICLE FOR A US STANCE THAT WOULD MOLLIFY ARABS; BUT THE MORE WE FOCUS PUBLICLY ON THE LIE, THE MORE WE FUEL THE ANGRY FLAMES IN THESE PARTS. AS ZAYYAT' S REPORTED COMMENT SUGGESTS, SUPPLY OF US WEAPONS TO ISRAEL WILL STILL BE PERCEIVED AS A BASIC FACTOR IN ARAB-US RELATIONS EVEN AFTER WE COPE WITH EPISODES INVOLVING THEIR USE.

3. SPANISH AMBASSADOR ALABART WAS SEEING HAFEZ ISMAIL SATURDAY, SO I BRIEFED HIM ON USG REPRESENTATIONS ON THE BIG LIE. ALABART SAID HE WOULD MENTION MATTER TO ISMAIL WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE AGAINST AMERICANS. GREENE
UNQUOTE ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE070335
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730444/aaaaipom.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 CAIRO 1121, 73 STATE 68941
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Sep-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <22 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980121
Subject: UNSC MEETING ON LEBANESE COMPLAINT
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, EG, IS, LE, n/a
To: CINCPAC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005